

**THE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
14TH MEETING
SUMMARY**

Friday, November 22, 2002

Prepared by:

The Department of Natural Resources

Office of Conservation

Ground Water Management Staff

Call to Order

Commission members in attendance:

Len Bahr, Office of Coastal Activities

Steve Chustz, Department of Environmental Quality

Zahir “Bo” Bolourchi, Department of Transportation and Development

Phil Boudreaux, Department of Natural Resources

William “Bill” Cefalu, Police Jury Association

Richard Durrett, Sparta Ground Water Conservation District

Karen Gautreaux, Governor’s Designee

Dean Lowe, Department of Health and Hospitals

John Roussel, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Brad Spicer, Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Michael Taylor, Department of Economic Development

Linda Zaunbrecher, Farm Bureau Member

Ground Water Management Staff Report

The Office of Conservation has received a total of 568 Water Well Information sheets.

The usual items have been posted on the web site including meeting agendas, summaries and transcripts. Information concerning the initial public hearing on the Sparta Application has been posted. The transcript of the public hearing will be posted as soon as it becomes available, both in audio and in text.

The initial public hearing on the Sparta Application was held on Tuesday, November 19th in Ruston, Louisiana. The comment period is open until December 19th; therefore, the hearing will not be discussed until after that date. The hearing was well attended by 350 to 500 citizens. Two newspaper articles were distributed regarding the hearing. Forty-five citizens made statements.

The staff attended several meetings including the Non-Point Source Committee at the Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Seiler met with Jay Grymes to discuss work that the Office of State Climatology has been doing in the development of a drought response plan and to discuss agency cooperation should a new water management agency be created by the legislature in the next session. Mr. Duplechin participated in a panel discussion at the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association's Environmental Conservation Council Annual Meeting. He also made a presentation to the Louisiana section of the Air and Waste Management Association at their fall conference. Mr. Duplechin also met with the Claiborne Parish Police Jury.

During the last month, the staff spent a lot of time preparing for the hearing held in Ruston, which included trips to Ruston to meet with Ruston High School administration. Mr. Duplechin is preparing a letter to Dr. Charles Scriber, Principal, thanking him for the use of the Ruston High School Auditorium. Mr. Duplechin thanked Commissioner Richard Durrett for his assistance in finding a location and in the setup of the auditorium.

Advisory Task Force Activities

The Advisory Task Force met on Thursday, November 21, 2002 to ask questions and make comments regarding the draft of Part II "Assistance in Developing a Statewide Water Management Plan". The consultants, C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates, were present to answer questions. There were few questions, if any, at that time.

One concern was mentioned regarding the amount of time that members of the Task Force and the Commission had to review this submittal. Mr. Duplechin explained that Senator Fred Hoyt indicated it probably would not be a problem to send a draft of the implementation plan to the legislative oversight committee by December 31st. The final plan could be submitted before January 15, 2003. Commissioner Gautreaux reiterated that the Commission and Task Force members should continue to review the draft

Part II. She encouraged members to send their comments electronically in order for revisions to be made in time to meet the December 31st deadline.

C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates

The consultants reported that Chapter 8 is virtually complete. They are continuing to work on Chapter 9. The final presentation of Part II will be on Wednesday, December 4, 2002. One revision presented by the consultants was to divide the three regions into four regions. Region three was divided into two regions.

Commission and Task Force Question and Comment

Several Commissioners asked questions regarding Part II. A concern the Commission voiced is the potential problem in working with other states which share the same aquifers in Louisiana. Arkansas has pledged their support. Another suggestion was not to use the terms groundwater, surface water and water resources interchangeably or to explain how the consultants reached the rationale. There was lengthy discussion involving the use of the terms registration and permitting of wells.

Old Business

The plan for implementation is due to the Legislative Oversight Committee by December 31, 2002. An outline of what needs to be included in the report was read into the record. The work submitted by C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates is the background for the final report from the Commission, Advisory Task Force and the Office of Conservation. The framework will be e-mailed to the Ground Water Management mailing list for comment.

New Business

No new business.

Public Question and Comment

No public question or comment.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. - Joint meeting with the Advisory Task Force. The final Part II will be presented by C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates.

Friday, December 13, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. – Advisory Task Force meeting.

Friday, December 13, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. – Ground Water Management Commission meeting.

Adjourn